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MINNESOTA BULLETIN NO. 360-5-30

SUBJECT: PER - SAFETY & HEALTH

Purpose. To provide field staff with information regarding personal safety while carrying our field duties.

Expiration Date. September 30, 2006.

Spring field work is beginning. Farmers will be applying pesticides to their fields. Every NRCS employee has a responsibility to protect themselves from exposure to recently applied pesticides by taking these actions:

1. Consult with the landuser to find out if the field to be entered has been treated, or is scheduled to be treated with a pesticide. If the answer is yes, the employee must:
 - a. Find out the name of the pesticide and the date applied.
 - b. Consult the label or other information to determine if a restricted re-entry interval (REI) is designated. REI information can generally be found in the "Agriculture Use Requirements" block of the product's label. Additionally, Minnesota Extension Publication Cultural and Chemical Weed Control in Field Crops, provides the re-entry information for many herbicides used in Minnesota. The publication can be found at <http://www.extension.umn.edu/distribution/cropsystems/DC3157.html>
 - c. If the re-entry period has not expired, the employees shall not enter the treated field. Reschedule the visit to a later date if the field is scheduled for treatment on the day of your arrival.
2. If the landuser does not know the name of the chemical applied, the employee must not enter the field unless the employee can determine the safe re-entry interval from the operator's records, pesticide container, or from the dealer who sold it.

3. Minimize risk of exposure to pesticides by wearing long pants and long sleeve shirts when performing field work. Additionally, make sure you properly clean yourself and your clothing following any possible contact with the product.
4. Finally, changing and washing work clothes daily and washing hands and other exposed skin frequently throughout the day will greatly reduce any potential adverse effects from contact with pesticides.

Spring is a great time to be out doing our work in the field. Don't forget to make safety a first in the field.

WILLIAM HUNT
State Conservationist

DIST: AE